

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

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FM AMCONSUL FUKUOKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0370

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJ: MAYORALITY ELECTION IN IIZUKA

SUMMARY: CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE DEFEATED LEFTIST CANDIDATE IN IIZUKA MAYORALITY ELECTION APRIL 14. ELECTION, WHICH WAS FIRST TIME JCP, JSP, AND KOMEITO HAD SPONSORED JOINT CANDIDATE IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE, WAS SEEN BY LOCAL PRESS AS HAVING SIGNIFICANCE VIS-A-VIS THIS SUMMER'S HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE TETSUO TAKANABE, JOINTLY SUPPORTED BY DSP AND LDP, DEFEATED MASATO OKAMATSU, WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY JCP, JSP, AND KOMEITO IN APRIL 14 IIZUKA MAYORALITY ELECTION. FINAL TALLY WAS 27,832 FOR TAKANABE TO 17,697 FOR OKAMATSU.

ELECTION WAS FIRST TIME JCP, JSP, AND KOMEITO HAD JOINTLY SPONSORED

PAGE TWO RUADLTA8022 C O N F I D E N T I A L

CANDIDATE IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE, AND THEIR CANDIDATE HAD BEEN GIVEN STRONG CHANCE OF WINNING IN IIZUKA, A FORMER COAL-MINING CENTER OF ABOUT 76,000. IN FACT, OVER-CONFIDENCE BY LEFTISTS WAS ONE OF REASONS GIVEN BY MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKS AS FACTOR IN LEFTIST DEFEAT. OTHER NEGATIVE FACTOR FOR LEFTISTS WAS LACK OF FULL SUPPORT FROM KOMEITO MEMBERS, MANY OF WHOM, IN SPITE OF OFFICIAL SPONSORSHIP BY PARTY, VOTED FOR CONSERVATIVE.

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LDP AND DSP, ON OTHER HAND, USED CRISIS MOOD CAUSED BY UNITED

LEFTISTS OPPOSITION TO MOBILIZE VOTERS, AND SUCCEEDED TO EXTENT THAT VOTER TURNOUT OF 84.6 PERCENT WAS HIGHEST EVER. TIMING OF ELECTION, WHICH COINCIDED WITH RECENT TRANSPORTATION STRIKES, ALSO HURT LEFTISTS.

COMMENT: NEWSPAPERS SAW ELECTION AS HOPEFUL SIGN FOR CONSERVATIVES IN THIS SUMMER'S HOUSE OF COUNCILLORS ELECTION. WHILE THIS IS DOUBTLESS TRUE TO CERTAIN EXTENT, THERE IS ALMOST NO ORGANIZED LABOR VOTE IN IIZUKA. IN ADDITION, OVER 54,000 OF 76,000 POPULATION ARE REGISTERED VOTERS, AN EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH PERCENTAGE. WITH VERY FEW YOUNG VOTERS AND ALMOST NO ORGANIZED LABOR VOTE, CONSERVATIVE VICTORY SEEMS LESS IMPRESSIVE THAN IT MIGHT AT FIRST BLUSH.
RICHARDSON

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